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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/701,226	02/09/2001	Shinji Fukushima	MAT-8026 US	8947

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EXAMINER

CUEVAS, PEDRO J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2834

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/701,226

Applicant(s)

FUKUSHIMA, SHINJI

Examiner

Pedro J. Cuevas

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 February 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6,8.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figures 2A-2C & 3 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Isosceles Sided Stator Coils For Brushless Motor Having Position Detection Capability.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,490,635 to Harrison et al.

Harrison et al. clearly teaches the construction of a brushless motor(10) comprising:

a rotor (26) with a permanent magnet (176) having P (P is an integer not less than two) polarities; and

a stator (174) facing said rotor and having a plurality of coils (212-222),

wherein any one of the coils has isosceles sides interlinking with magnetic field generated by the polarities extension lines of the isosceles sides extending through centers of winding-bundles of the coil, crossing each other at a shaft center having a vertex angle of 360/P degree.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,490,635 to Harrison et al. in view of common knowledge in the art.

Harrison et al. discloses the claimed invention except for the outer rim of the coil measuring not more than \varnothing 40 mm.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select the \varnothing of the outer rim of the coil to measure not more than 40 mm, for the purpose of obtaining unoccupied space between the coils to place sensors, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

7. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,490,635 to Harrison et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,578,606 to Welterlin.

Harrison et al. discloses a brushless motor as described above.

However, it fails to disclose a brushless motor, wherein:

the coil winding bundles forming the isosceles sides are disposed within an area covered by an angle of $360/(4 \times P)$ degree both inside and outside with respect to a center of the angle of $360/P$ degree, and

the coils adjacent to each other are spaced out at intervals of $(360/P) \times (5/3)$ degree.

Welterlin teaches a brushless motor, wherein:

the coil winding bundles forming the isosceles sides are disposed within an area covered by an angle of $360/(4 \times P)$ degree both inside and outside with respect to a center of the angle of $360/P$ degree, and

the coils adjacent to each other are spaced out at intervals of $(360/P) \times (5/3)$ degree for the purpose of obtaining a brushless, self-commutating DC motor having a tachogenerator for producing speed control signals.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the coil disposition and spacing disclosed by Welterlin on the brushless motor disclosed by Harrison et al. for the purpose of obtaining a brushless, self-commutating DC motor having a tachogenerator for producing speed control signals.

It must be noted that it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to select any real number larger than one, to mathematically describe the area of coverage of the coils to the vertex angle for the purpose making them smaller to create unoccupied space between the coils to place sensors, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

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8. With regards to claim 5, Harrison et al. discloses the use of position detectors for detecting a position of said rotor.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to place said 3 detectors at intervals of $(360/P) \times (2/3)$ degree and in an area where the coils are not placed.

Conclusion


9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro J. Cuevas whose telephone number is (703) 308-4904. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Néstor R. Ramírez can be reached on (703) 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-1341 for regular communications and (703) 305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Pedro J. Cuevas
December 14, 2001


NESTOR RAMIREZ
SPE 2834